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TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL – JULY 10, 2012

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At 8:39 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.	

July 10, 2012

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 in the City Council Chamber at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Furey, Numark, Rhilinger, Sutherland, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Transit Director Kim Turner.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Rhilinger.

**3. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA / MOTION TO
WAIVE FURTHER READING**

City Clerk Herbers reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, July 5, 2012.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous vote.

4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Rhilinger announced that the City of Torrance has two cooling center locations this summer: 1) Bartlett Center, 1318 Cravens Avenue, Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sundays 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.; and 2) Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For more information contact Bartlett Center at 310.320.5918, Katy Geissert Library at 310.618.5959, City Manager's office at 310.618.5880 or visit www.TorranceCA.Gov/news.htm.

Councilmember Brewer reported that the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee held a joint meeting with the Torrance Unified School District on Monday, July 9, and the topics of discussion included the remediation of sports fields, drainage issues at Magruder Middle School, and AYSO national soccer tournament coming to Torrance in 2014.

Councilmember Brewer announced that the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee will meet on Monday, August 13, at 4:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room to discuss the subsidy of community services, senior excursions, and the Madrona Marsh.

City Clerk Herbers invited staff and the public to view the works of Torrance Artist Guild member George Marlow on display in the City Clerk's office for the month of July.

Mayor Scotto reported that on July 6, he sent a letter to the mayor of Santa Monica expressing concerns about the proposed Flight Training Reduction Incentive Test Program at the Santa Monica Airport, which is designed to reduce the noise impact associated with repetitive aircraft operations during weekends and holidays by reimbursing flight schools to conduct practices at other airports. He stated that in the letter, he requested that an environmental study be conducted before the program is adopted due to the potential impact on Torrance, including increased aircraft traffic at Torrance Airport and increased noise. With the concurrence of Council, he requested that staff: 1) Continue to monitor the situation; 2) Encourage Santa Monica to meet with impacted airports to address any concerns prior to making any policy changes; and 3) Prepare a Council item addressing potential impacts on Torrance, along with possible remediations, if Santa Monica proceeds with this program without input from affected airports.

Mayor Scotto announced that Torrance resident and surviving Tuskegee airman Walter Crenshaw, who is 102 years old, will be presented with a Congressional Gold Medal at the July 24 City Council meeting in recognition of the sacrifices that he and other Tuskegee airmen made in defense of this nation during World War II. He encouraged the public to attend this memorable event.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. INSTALLATION OF CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council adopt a Resolution installing the officers appointed to the City Council by Resolution No. 2012-30 on March 20, 2012 for a full four-year term of 2012-2016.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-60

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-60. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

City Clerk Herbers administered the oath of office to Councilmember Barnett, Councilmember Furey and Councilmember Rhilinger.

Newly elected Councilmembers Barnett, Rhilinger, and Furey thanked family, friends, City staff and colleagues on the Council for their support and briefly commented on their previous/upcoming terms in office.

Councilmembers Sutherland, Brewer, Numark and Mayor Scotto congratulated the newly-elected Councilmembers on their second term.

At 7:35 p.m., the City Council recessed for a brief reception.

The City Council reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Neva Gallegos, resident, voiced objections to the use of leaf blowers and urged that they be banned in Torrance, citing the noise they create, the harmful carbon monoxide emissions they produce, and the potential damage to the hearing and respiratory tracts of workers who use them without the recommended protective gear.

7B. Debbie Hays, Torrance Historical Society, invited the public to attend “Rock-Around-the-Century” block party on Thursday, July 19, from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. in front of the museum at 1345 Post Avenue, which will include vintage cars, music, games and food, with additional information at 310.328.5392.

7C. Maureen O'Donnell, resident, announced that the Salvation Army will be sponsoring a Chili Cook-off on Saturday, July 21, beginning at noon at 4223 Emerald Street, with additional information available at 310.370.4515.

7D. Cari Oberholzer and Carol Cavelli-Roberts, Torrance, reported that there have been several accidents involving cars parked on the street in front of their residences (6000 block of Pacific Coast Highway) and requested that the Council consider allowing residents to park overnight in El Retiro Park via a permit system (*submitted written material for the record*).

7E. Janet Payne, Torrance Historical Society, announced that the museum will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays beginning July 19 and a different expert will be present each evening to provide insight on the City's history.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of June 5, and June 12, 2012.

8B. MAY 2012 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for May 2012.

8C. AGREEMENT AMENDMENT RE UNDERGROUND SERVICED STREET LIGHT INSTALLATION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council approve a first amendment to the public works agreement with Pro Tech Engineering Corp. (C2012-051) extending the term an additional 90 days for the construction of Underground Serviced Street Light Installation for Van Ness Avenue from Torrance Boulevard to Cravens Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard from Victor Street to Henrietta Street.

8D. YOUTH COUNCIL DONATION FOR 2012 ANNUAL YOUTH FORUM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Torrance Youth Council and the Community Services Director that City Council approve and appropriate \$1,413 from the Youth Council Donation Account for warrants to be issued to Torrance Unified School District for \$808 and VIP Tours for \$605 to pay for bus transportation for the 2012 Annual Youth Forum.

8E. YOUTH COUNCIL DONATION FOR 2012 STUDENT CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Torrance Youth Council and the Community Services Director that City Council approve and appropriate \$2,000 from the Youth Council Donation Account for a grant to the Torrance Sister City Association 2012 Student Cultural Exchange Program.

MOTION: Councilmember Furey moved to approve Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8E. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Numark and passed by unanimous vote.

13. HEARINGS

13A. AUTHORIZATION FOR L.A. COUNTY ASSESSOR TO COLLECT DELINQUENT SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director that City Council adopt a Resolution authorizing and directing the Los Angeles County Assessor to place delinquent solid waste collection fees on the County Assessor's roll to be collected at the same time and in the same manner as county taxes.

Mayor Scotto announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

Sr. Accountant Bittner stated that staff was requesting authorization to have the Los Angeles County Assessor include delinquent rubbish collection fees on property tax bills.

Responding to questions from the Council, Sr. Accountant Bittner confirmed that the owners of the properties involved have been properly notified via registered mail and accounts can still be removed if a bill is paid in full before the list is submitted to L.A. County in the beginning of August, noting that the City charges a 3% late fee on delinquent bills.

As no one from the public wished to be heard, the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-64

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ASSESSOR TO INCLUDE DELINQUENT SOLID WASTE COLLECTION
FEES AS A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TO BE COLLECTED AT THE SAME
TIME AND IN THE SAME MANNER AS COUNTY TAXES

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-64. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

**13B. EXCHANGE OF GENERAL FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BLOCK GRANT FUNDS**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Finance Director and Community Development Director that City Council:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing and consider input regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds;
- 2) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the exchange of \$95,848 in City of Torrance General funds for \$143,057 in City of Duarte CDBG funds; and
- 3) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the revised allocation of 2012 CDBG funds as follows:
 - Citywide Sidewalk Repair for handicap accessibility \$752,758
 - Downtown Sidewalk Repair for handicap accessibility \$100,000.

Mayor Scotto announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Herbers confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reported that the proposed Resolutions would allow the City to proceed with a fund exchange with the City of Duarte and allocate the additional funds to CDBG projects for the repair of sidewalks throughout the City to provide for handicap accessibility.

For the benefit of the public, Mayor Scotto explained that fund exchanges are commonly done when a city cannot use funds that have been allocated for a specific purpose.

Councilmember Sutherland pointed out that the City will be paying only \$0.67 for every \$1.00 in CDBG funds, which greatly benefits Torrance, but questioned the wisdom of the federal government's practice of allocating funds to cities that cannot use them.

As no one from the public wished to be heard, the public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rhilinger and passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-61

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING A LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DUARTE AND THE CITY OF TORRANCE REGARDING THE EXCHANGE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-61. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-62

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THE CITY'S REVISED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to adopt Resolution No. 2012-62. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous vote.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Rhilinger requested an excused absence for the July 17 and July 24 City Council meetings.

17B. Councilmember Sutherland stated that he was pleased that Councilmembers Barnett, Furey and Rhilinger had been reappointed and looked forward to serving with them on the Council.

17C. Councilmember Barnett announced that applications are being accepted for the second phase of the Hometown Heroes Banner Program and applications available at public counters at City Hall and online at www.TorranceCA.Gov/7491.htm.

17D. Referring to Santa Monica's plan to offer incentives to flight schools for not using Santa Monica Airport for training, Councilmember Brewer asked that staff look into the possibility of charging an additional fee for transient aircraft practicing touch-and-go landings at Torrance Airport.

17E. Councilmember Furey thanked his colleagues for their kind words earlier in the meeting after his reappointment.

17F. Councilmember Numark encouraged the public to attend City of Torrance night on Sunday, August 26, at the L. A. Galaxy versus Dallas soccer game, with additional information available at www.LAGalaxy.com/Torrance.

17G. Mayor Scotto offered a reminder that Tuskegee airman Walter Crenshaw will be honored on July 24 during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

17H. Mayor Scotto announced that July 12 was the deadline to purchase commemorative bricks to be installed in the Centennial Plaza at El Prado Park.

17I. Mayor Scotto encouraged community groups to participate in the Torrance Centennial Community Parade to be held on Sunday, September 16, in Downtown Torrance, noting that applications are available in the City Hall lobby or online at www.torrancecentennial.org and are due by August 16, 2012.

18. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

19. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:39 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Attest:

/s/ Frank Scotto

Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers

Sue Herbers, CMC
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on August 7, 2012